

EXERCISE POINTS OF CONTACTS

For more information, on the exercise, please consult the following points of contact (POCs):

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***THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
PARTICIPATION!***

Major Winter Storm Functional Exercise March 2, 2016



***Knox County Emergency
Management Agency
and
the Towns of Cushing,
Friendship,
St. George and South
Thomaston***

Knox County Peninsula Towns Major Winter Storm Functional Exercise

PREFACE

This multi-town functional exercise is sponsored by the Knox County Emergency Management Agency and the participating towns – Cushing, Friendship, St. George and South Thomaston. This exercise follows the guidance set forth in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

This Brochure provides participants and others with information to prepare for participation in the exercise. This is an unclassified exercise, and this brochure may be viewed by all exercise participants.

The exercise scenario is comprised of a series of severe winter storm events starting with an ice storm followed by heavy snow and extremely cold temperatures.

The Exercise is scheduled to be held at the at the Knox County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and will be conducted 6:00-9:00pm on Wednesday, March 2, 2016. Please note we will be doing sign-ins and dinner starting at 5:30pm.

The exercise will end with a “hot wash” or review of lessons learned conducted jointly among participants.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this exercise is to allow exercise participants re-familiarize themselves with the current municipal Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), discuss the opening and staffing of the municipality’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC); establish communications with own responders and neighboring jurisdictions, and respond to hypothetical events related to the scenario. The exercise will focus on inter-jurisdictional cooperation, local EOC coordination, critical decisions, notifications, and the integration of local or regional assets necessary to save lives and protect public health and safety. The role of public information strategies will be considered to the overall response effort.

PARTICIPANTS

- *Players* discuss the situation presented based on expert knowledge of response procedures, current plans and standing operating procedures, and insights derived from training and experience.
- *Observers* from non-participating municipalities/counties and/or Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and interested volunteer groups may be onsite to observe and to learn from the exercise. **Note:** *Reps from Central Maine Power Company, Fairpoint Communications, Time-Warner Cable, American Red Cross and County services will be available to provide insight to the protocols and priorities related to their sectors.*

EXERCISE GUIDELINES

- This is an open, low-stress, no-fault environment. Varying viewpoints or differences of opinion are expected and are valuable to the process.
- Respond based on your knowledge of current plans and capabilities (i.e., you may use only existing assets or those available through mutual aid agreements) and insights derived from training.
- Decisions are not precedent setting and may not reflect your organization’s final position on a given issue. This is an opportunity to discuss and present multiple options and possible solutions.

ASSUMPTIONS AND ARTIFICIALITIES

In any exercise a number of assumptions and artificialities may be necessary to complete play in the time allotted. During this exercise, the following apply:

- The scenario is plausible, and events occur as they are presented.
- There is no “hidden agenda”, nor any trick questions.
- All players receive information at the same time.
- The exercise is estimated to last approximately three hours including a brief “hot wash” conducted for benefit of all participants.

EXERCISE OBJECTIVES

Exercise design objectives are focused on improving understanding of a response concept and identifying opportunities or problems. The exercise will focus on the following design objectives:

Operational Coordination: The Municipal Emergency Operations Center.

- a) Establish and operate (notional) local EOC in accordance with local directives and guidelines given current and predicted weather conditions presented.
- b) Develop Situational Awareness and share a Common Operating Picture.

Community Resilience: Make threat and risk based decisions supporting own and neighboring communities.

- a) Explore collaborative and cooperative efforts which may be required to respond to or recover from the given scenario. Determine response and establish priorities to simulated incidents.

Planning: Current plans do what they were intended to do.

- a) Determine effectiveness and adequacy of existing municipal plans and agreements, including any standing inter-local agreements which would be utilized for the scenario presented

“Exercise Injects” are simulations providing scenario information or incidents which stimulate discussion or action among exercise participants

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BEGINNING AND CONDUCT OF THE EXERCISE

Please review the following weather scenario:

On March 13 the NWS service issues a Winter Storm Warning for an expected ice storm affecting areas of Maine south of Route 2. Up to ½ inch of ice is expected to cause widespread power outages. As the ice storm departs to the northeast it will draw in Arctic air on the backside and change to snow. Snowfall in excess of 15 inches is expected with blizzard-like conditions, during which an astronomical high tide and a storm surge may cause severe coastal flooding. Long range forecast calls for several days of below average temperatures and windy conditions causing dangerous wind chills.

At the beginning of the exercise each town will activate and staff a “notional” (simulated) local EOC, establish communications with Knox EOC and neighboring towns. These town groups will be given 15 minutes to discuss preparedness priorities based upon the weather forecast, then will provide a quick briefing of their local priorities.

CONDUCT OF EXERCISE

Subsequent “injects” will require towns to take actions to respond to a variety of simulated events. This may involve working cooperatively with other municipalities. Discuss response actions required by exercise information which may be delivered in a variety of ways and with each situation requiring coordination or response decisions.

There will be several key questions accompanying each subsequent “inject”.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 5:30 – 6:00 Registration and Working Dinner
- 6:00 – 6:10 Welcome and Introductions
- 6:10 – 6:30 Utility & Contractor Briefings
- 6:30 – 6:45 Towns plan for weather scenario
- 6:45 – 7:00 Town brief backs
- 7:00 – 8:30 Additional scenario injects
- 8:30 – 9:00 “Hot Wash”
- 9:00 ENDEX

